

# **APPROVED**

## **Downtown Providence District Management Authority**

### **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**April 18, 2013**

#### **1. Roll Call**

**Chairman Richard Lappin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.**

**Directors present: Bert Crenca, Joseph DiBattista, Wendy Doyle-Spatcher, Robert Gagliardi, Evan Granoff, Susan LaPidus, Richard Lappin and John MacIver and Christopher Placco**

**Ex Officio Members present: Diana Burdette, Lindsay Hahn, Gonzalo Cuervo and Leo Perrotta.**

**Others present: Dan Baudouin, Executive Director of The Providence Foundation; Joelle Kanter, The Providence Foundation Program Manager; Frank LaTorre, Director of Public Space, Alison Izzi, DID Accounting Manager, Frank Zammarelli, Block by Block Operations Manager, Paloma Beale, DID Marketing Intern, Jeremy Curran, President, Block by Block, and Nick Bendistis, Regional Vice President, Block by Block.**

#### **2. Approval to apply for the Champlin Grant**

**The Champlin Grant would provide funding for equipment to be used**

**in the Capital Center Expansion. The grant amount of \$35,000 would go to the purchase of a 300 gallon watering truck, (oversized Gator) and other miscellaneous equipment.**

**Director Chris Placco motioned to approve the application. Director Joe DiBattisa seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:**

**Director DiBattista**

**Director Crenca**

**Yes**

**Yes**

**Wendy Doyle-Specter**

**Director Gagliardi**

**Director Granoff Yes**

**Yes**

**Yes**

**Director LaPidus Yes**

**Director Lappin Yes**

**Director Macliver Yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

## **2. City of Providence Update**

**Gonzalo Cuervo, Deputy Chief of Staff to Mayor Angel Tavares presented Mayor Angel Tavares' Economic Development Action Plan. The plan focuses on freezing commercial tax rates, fixing the permitting process, and fast tracking development. Leo Perrotta reported that the sidewalk brick repairs are moving forward and he has received approval from Alan Sepe and the Mayor's office. He also reported that City is prepared to take action regarding the trash issue in Worcester Alley, including citing property owners who do not comply with the dumpster ordinances.**

## **3. Approval of the minutes from the March 21, 2013 meeting**

**Director Joe DiBattista motioned to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2013 Board Meeting. Director Bert Crenca the motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:**

**Director DiBattista**

**Director Crenca Yes**

**Yes**

**Wendy Doyle-Specter**

**Director Gagliardi**

**Director Granoff Yes**

**Yes**

**Yes**

**Director LaPidus Yes**

**Director Lappin Yes**

**Director Macliver Yes**

**Therefore the motion passed.**

#### **4. Financial Report**

**Alison Izzi presented the financial reports for March 2013. Equity includes \$361,001 allocated/reserved and \$137,286 unallocated. 97% of tax assessments have been collected and collection procedures**

are ongoing. The FY 2014 budget process has begun and the 2014 draft budget will be presented at the May board meeting. Block by Block came in under budget this month and all other expenses are in line with budget expectations.

Director Bob Gagliardi motioned to accept the March 2013 financials as presented, Director Evan Granoff seconded the motion, and a roll call vote was held as follows:

Director DiBattista Yes

Director Crenca Yes

Director Gagliardi

Director Granoff Yes

Yes

Director LaPidus Yes

Director Lappin Yes

Director Macliver Yes

**Therefore the motion passed.**

## **5. Report from the Director of Public Space**

**Frank LaTorre reported that the HRP, Hospitality Resource Partnership, is moving forward with their agenda from the April 4th meeting. 4 ordinances changes will be signed by the Mayor which will make the nightlife scene safer and promote the nighttime economy. Research has begun to do an economic impact study on the nighttime economy. Frank reported on a Capital Center meeting that was held on Tuesday, April 16th, at Moran Shipping. Discussions focused on putting a petition together for the property owners in the capital center district to get an indication of the level of support there is for the project. Also discuss was the participation of the Providence Place Mall and the inclusion of Waterplace Park.**

## **6. Marketing Report**

**Joelle Kanter reported meeting with Jim Bennett, Providence's Director of Economic Development and Neil Steinberg and Jessica David of the Rhode Island Foundation and presented NAIL's marketing concepts. She will follow up with them and answer any questions they have and will work closely with NAIL to start developing the website and outreach plans. She also reported that the business directories have been sent to the printer and distribution should begin before the end of the month. Fundraising efforts**

continue for the Wayfinding Signage project and the signage plans are being finalized. 7 properties have confirmed that they will participate in the Downtown Living Tour. The event will be promoted starting in early May.

## **7. Report from Block by Block**

Jeremy Curran, President of Block by Block, introduced Nick Bendistis, the new Regional Vice President in charge of New England. Jeremy also reported that Block by Block was purchased by SGI on January 1, 2013. SGI was Block by Block's next biggest competitor. Block by Block now operates 70 BID's across the country. Nick had been with SGI and his territory covers, New England, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Hartford and New Haven and Bridgeport, CT.

Frank Zammarelli reported that all the graffiti tags in the district have now been removed, thanks to the warm weather. The plants in the greenhouse are ready for planting and plant growth is ahead of schedule. If weather permits, the planting season could start a week early. Plant installation is scheduled for the 3rd & 4th week of May.

## **8. Economic Development**

Dan Baudouin talked about Mayor Tavares' tax economic plan, specifically the commercial tax rate. Dan also suggested putting together a committee to focus on co-locating the DID, Providence Foundation and Parks Conservancy offices as well as finding a new

location for the Ambassadors. Chris Placco, Bob Gagliardi and Richard Lappin agreed to participate on the committee and a meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 10th to view prospective properties.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Alison Izzì**

**Accounting Manager**

**Downtown Improvement District**